the RARS Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

RARS

Worldwide Friendship

November 2005, Number 416

MS-150

The route is sort of a "figure 8," centered on New Bern. Saturday's ride heads east to Pamlico County, and Sunday's ride goes west through Craven County. Each day's basic 75 mile route offers a 25 mile "Century" extension, though wind and the threat of rain from Hurricane Ophelia closed the Century extension on Sunday.

Ham radio provides critical safety and logistics communications for the event.

Photo by Gary KN4AQ

The Exciter

The ***Exciter*** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are $18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay $5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are $12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are $9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

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ni4s@arrl.net

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ncsol@bellsouth.net

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919-469-5322
kd4isc@arrl.net

TREASURER: **Greg Seamster KE4PAX**
919-859-0029
ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: ***Every first Tuesday of the Month***
Location: ***Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh***
Time: ***7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.***

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING:
Tuesday, November 1, 2005 7:30 pm
RF Safety
School Program Update

RARSFEST

The first meeting of the RARSfest was on Monday September 26. It's not too early to plan at least one hour time frame to help. The hamfest is April 23, 2006.

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

RARS DUES
You can pay RARS dues online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

HAMFEST CALENDAR

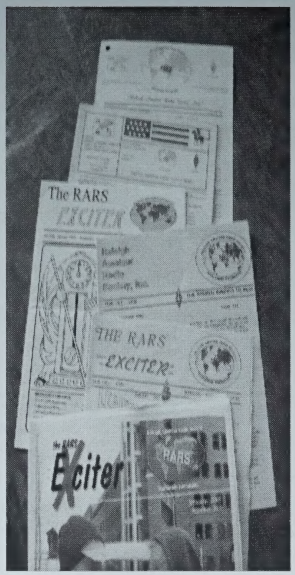
November 20	**Benson, NC**
December 3	Gastonia, NC
January 6, 2006*	Winston-Salem, NC
February 19*	Richmond, VA
February 25	Elkin, NC
March 11-12	Charlotte, NC
April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15*	Morganton, NC
April 23	**RALEIGH, NC**
April 28-29*	Charlotte, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC
May 20	Williamston, NC
May 19-20*	Dayton, OH
May 20	Greenville, NC
May 27*	**Durham, NC**

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed

LOOKing Back 30 Years

From the November 1975 Exciter

The FCC, responding to a request from the ARRL, has clarified its rules regarding amateur radio stations' use of digital codes. The league told the commission that it had worked with the developers of CLOVER, G-TOR, and PACTOR to document the technical characteristics of those codes, and asked the FCC to remove any doubt about their legality on the High Frequency bands.



LOOKing Back 10 Years

From the November 1995 Exciter

An FCC investigation is underway into what may be the first occurrence of a local government taking action to ban radio communications without federal order. The order from Judge Gordon to use a 1000 watt transmitter to block CB radio within a designated area. A simultaneous order was issued by Mayor Sloane of Louisville to place a ban on possession of ALL two-way radios within in a specified jurisdiction. The FCC's findings will be brought before the Justice Department to help determine if the jamming was valid under provisions of the Communications Act.

NET REPORTS FOR September 2005

8:00pm DAILY: RARS Evening Net

Participants 415
Traffic 12/21
Time 844 minutes
Sessions 30

8:30pm SAT: Tech & Traders Net
9:00pm MON: SWL/SIG

Participants 60
Traffic 0/0
Time 352 Minutes
Sessions 8

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joe	WA4GIR	11/02
George	WA4EKJ	11/05
Clayton	KE4DOX	11/07
Carroll	KD4JH	11/07
Jeff	AC4ZO	11/08
Ashby	W5PGX	11/11
Jerry	N4AVM	11/15
Glenn	WA4LHE	11/16
Rolf	K8SL	11/19
John	N4OZL	11/21
Mark	WD4KSE	11/21
Ed	N4PBB	11/23
Jay	N5UTR	11/24
Doug	N3LTV	11/26
John	WB8QJN	11/27
Clare	N2RJB	11/30
Ken	AB4RQ	11/30

Minutes of the RARS
Board Meeting for August 2005

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on August 16, 2005 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Andy Peterson, NI4S, Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Denyse Walter, K4DAW, Jim Walter, K4FIJ, Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, Jon Kerfoot, KG4ZVT, Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ and Dick Orander, KD4ISC. Others – Mary Jo Littlewood, K4MJL.

President Andy Peterson, NI4S called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

On a motion from Chuck K4HF and second by Jon KG4ZVT, the July Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

Greg KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report.

- There are currently 222 club members.

Dick W8HYD provided the Vice President's report.

- The Technician class has ended. Nine students have passed their exams and more will be testing at the Smithfield session this weekend.
- The September general meeting program is still in the works. A video of the talk given by Riley Hollingsworth during the Dayton Hamfest may be shown.

Committee Reports

Exciter – Denyse K4DAW advised articles are needed for the newsletter. Johnnie Mayfield, WA9SZL, will be contributing technical articles in future issues.

Nets – Denyse K4DAW reported on behalf of the Net Manager that the nets are going well.

Webmaster – Jon KG4ZVT advised the contacts list on the RARS webpage has been updated.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM reported that the first meetings for next year's fest will begin in late September. Next year's hamfest will be held on April 23. Chuck K4HF provided comments on his recent discussions with the Fairgrounds concerning schedules and facilities.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported that five hams provide coverage of the Pigskin Preview. There have been no recent updates for the MS-150 but we'll keep talking it up for recruiting volunteers. The Autism Ribbon Run on October 8 is still in need of a coordinator as is the October 14 – 23 State Fair coverage. Dick will continue to advertise these events to solicit help.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF advised there's been a lot of discussion concerning the NPRM on the removal of the Morse code requirement.

Ad Hoc – the nominating committee continues to gather information for recommending candidates for this year's club elections.

Unfinished Business

Dick W8HYD advised he will be delivering the food that was collected at the last general meeting to the local ham family in need of assistance. It was agreed by the group to hold another collection of goods at the next club meeting.

A replacement extension cord for Bruce Buck, KC4UQN, has finally been purchased and will be delivered tomorrow. There was much rejoicing.

Dick W8HYD will make the honorary membership certificates for Bob and Marian Breyer (K1RCB and K1MRB) and send them to their new location in Indiana.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, will try to locate the last known list of club assets. Dick KD4ISC reported that there was no list present in the Secretary's file cabinet.

New Business

None

General Comments

The October general meeting will be the annual auction. The meeting will begin earlier than usual that evening.

Dick KD4ISC advised a get well card had been sent on behalf of the club to Jim McRight, KB4BZ, during his recent hospitalization.

Greg KE4PAX reported he has been trying to obtain a list of new hams from the ULS / FCC database. This would be used for mailing the Exciter to new hams in the area. Several members offered advice on obtaining this data.

Gary KN4AQ advised of his pending resignation as SERA editor.

Chuck K4HF reported an Education Director will be needed for the club as well as At-large Directors and a Public Service Coordinator for the upcoming elections.

Denyse K4DAW provided general comments on ham radio and public service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

VoIP Hurricane Net Activates for Hurricane Rita As She Slams the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts

The VoIP Hurricane Net activated for Hurricane Rita beginning at 9 AM EDT,Friday September 23rd, 2005 to coincide with WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida at 9 AM EDT/8 AM CDT and concluded its activation on Saturday September 24th, 2005 at 2 PM EDT/1 PM CDT. The net's goal is to connect Amateurs in the affected area with EOC's, National Weather Service offices and the National Hurricane Center for pertinent emergency communications traffic and provide weather reports and damage assessments to the National Hurricane Center and other official agencies that may be on the system. Net Controls for this activation came from a variety of ARRL Sections including Eastern Massachusetts, North Carolina, Ohio, Florida, and Minnesota. In addition, international stations participated as net control. Several Amateur Radio Operators from Australia including Amateurs from WICEN, the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network, which is Australia's version of ARES, participated as Net Control during the overnight hours in the United States, which is Australia's late afternoon and evening hours. Also, an Amateur Radio Operator from England participated for the first time as well. The use of international stations allows for net controls in the US to remain fresh during daylight hours and facilitates easier 24-hour operation of the net.

Using radio systems and repeaters that are linked to the Internet through IRLP reflector 9219 which is cross-linked with the EchoLink *WX_TALK* conference server, Amateurs from Eastern Texas and Western Louisiana were able to pass important traffic relating to their emergency operations. For example, Amateurs in North Texas RACES had a request for Amateurs to assist with shelter operations in their region as evacuees from the Eastern Texas coast line were displaced as far north as the Dallas-Fort Worth area. An Amateur from Cleobourne, Texas responded to the call and worked with the requesting Amateur from North Texas RACES to supply more Amateurs for shelter operations in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. In addition, EOC and National Weather Service Forecast Offices came on line over the course of the day Friday. This included the Nacogdoches EOC through the efforts of Kevin Anderson-KD5WX, WX5FWD, which is the National Weather Service in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, WR5GC, which is the National Weather Service in Houston, Texas and K5SHV, which is the National Weather Service in Shreveport, Louisiana. In addition, the Livingston Memorial Hospital was connected through the efforts of WM6V-Flo Garneau and the Lufkin, Texas Fire Department through the efforts of Richard Ewbanks-KE5DRG.

Southwest Louisiana was the first area to receive the worst conditions from Hurricane Rita on Friday Evening. An Amateur from Southwest Louisiana, K5FRF-Heath Roberts from Denham Springs, Louisiana, provided information directly from the Lake Charles, Louisiana Police Department of significant tree and power line damage Friday Evening. On Saturday morning, damage reports and observed weather data came in steadily as daylight revealed some of the damage done by dangerous Hurricane Rita. WM6V-Flo Garneau reported that the glass emergency room doors of the Livingston Memorial Hospital in Livingston, Texas were blown out by estimated winds of 100 MPH and the Livingston OEM reported a measured wind gust on Livingston Dam of 105 MPH. She also reported that the Timber Creek School in Livingston, Texas lost the roof that was covering the cafeteria portion of the school with no injuries reported. The school was serving as a shelter

for 280 people. Several homes lost portions of their roofs in Nacogdoches, Lufkin and Homer, Texas as reported by Kevin-KD5WX from the Nacogdoches EOC, Matt Kuhl-K5MLK in Lufkin, Texas and Jeff Little-KM5RA in Homer, Texas. .Richard KE5DRG relayed a report from a Lufkin Fire Station that a two-story apartment complex lost its roof

Reports of damage were also received from AA5HY-David Armstrong from Mansfield Louisiana as the ARES EC and EOC liaison for the Mansfield/De Soto Louisiana area and were forwarded to the National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The ability to connect EchoLink PC users, EchoLink and IRLP repeaters and links via the same system offers a large amount of flexibility to obtain reports from Amateurs in the affected area including Amateurs who do not have HF privileges. At the same time, it is not a replacement to other Amateur Radio modes including HF, WinLink, Packet, APRS, VHF/UHF repeaters and simplex and many other modes that an emergency communicator may use to get vital emergency and priority traffic out for served agencies. EchoLink and IRLP provide another "tool in the toolbox" for the emergency communicator to utilize when available.

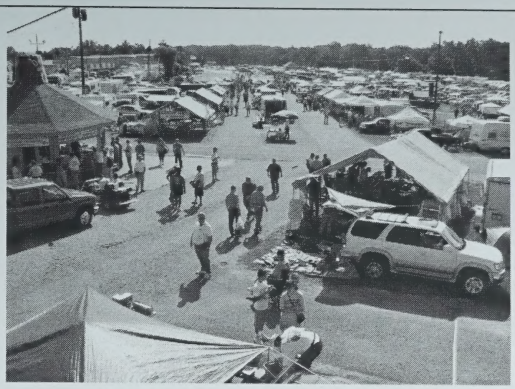
73, Rob-KD1CY Net Manager for VoIP Hurricane Net Activations. Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for NWS Taunton Massachusetts

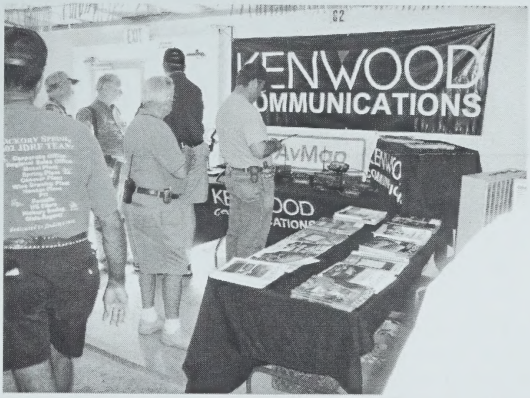
Local: The VOIP Skywarn Hurricane net from all over the world is held on Saturday night 8:00pm, 146.775 88.5 PL Echolink node 7203. Please see www.voipwx.net for details.

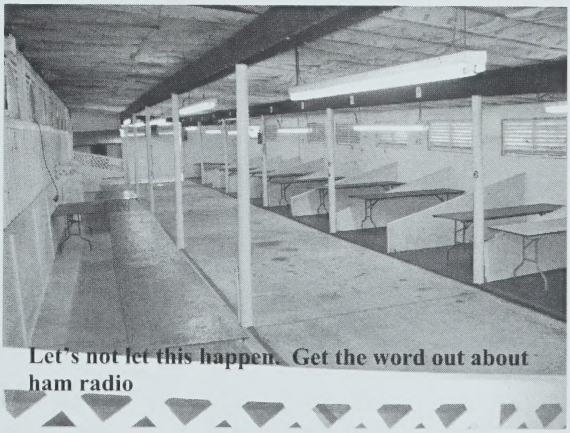
www.irlp.net

SHELBY

Shelby attendance was hurt some by the first round of $3+ gas prices and some spot shortages following Hurricane Katrina. NC Gov. Mike Easley advised everyone to refrain from non-essential travel that weekend. For many hams, though, Shelby is "essential."

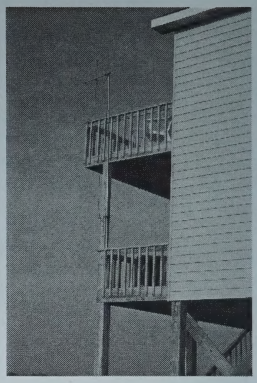






Photos by Gary KN4AQ

Long Distance with 2 Meters



My family and I spent our vacation this year, as we usually do, at Holden beach for a week of sun and relaxation. I decided this year to take some extra Ham gear along figuring I would have some time to make a few contacts. I have been working on getting my mobile HF rig installed in my truck but didn't have everything I needed for the antenna by the time we left. So I decided I'd take my extra VHF/UHF radio and a small beam antenna in order to work some of the local and more distant repeaters. I have not had a lot of success before with my radio and a j-pole so I was hoping the beam would help.

Anyway, I got my stuff set up Sunday and got a chance to try it out Monday evening. My equipment consisted of an Icom 207 radio and an Astron RS-20M power supply,. The antenna is a Cushcraft A145B2 three element beam. It makes a pretty good antenna for travel as it can fold up and is probably about 40" long. The pole that I had the antenna on is an old extension pole that I used for my pool skimmer. It is about 15 ft long when extended. I had an adjustable clamp from my wood shop that I used to attach the pole temporarily to the deck of the beach house. That put the antenna about 23 ft in the air.

Well I made a few contacts throughout the week but the most notable came one night when I was listening to the RARS 2 meter net. I believe it was Tuesday night and Denyse, K4DAW, was net control. The "64" repeater was coming into Holden Beach exceptionally well so I decided to try to check in. I was surprised that I made it with 50 watts but I was able to hit the repeater and checked in and out. I was pretty impressed, not bad for about 130 miles. I tried again on Thursday night, but it wasn't quite as successful. Dick, KD4ISC, knew it was me, but I wasn't able to give him my location. Oh well it was fun anyway.

The week at the beach was great, some good radio work and fantastic weather.

73,
Larry / n4lew

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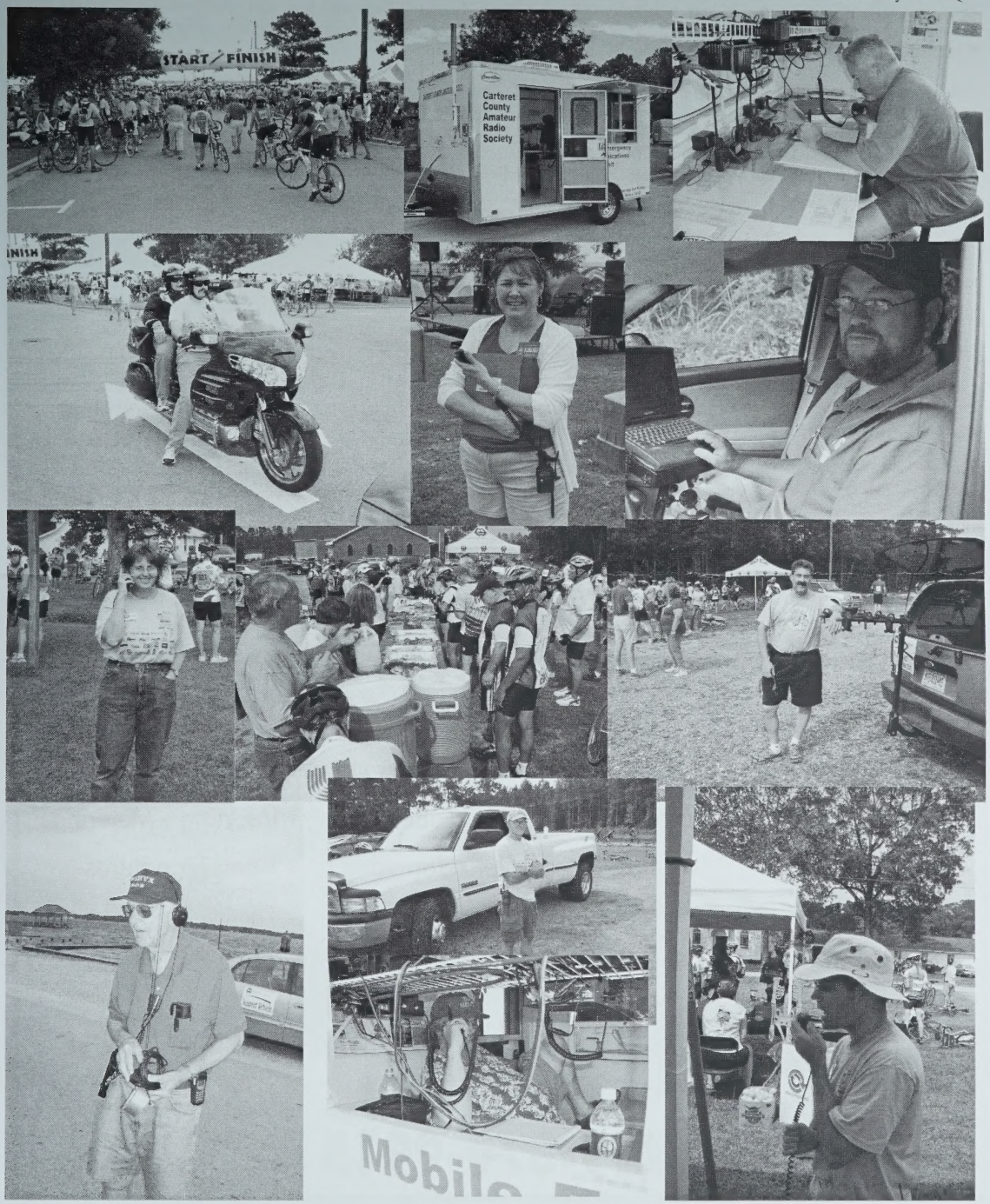
MS-150

A mix of hams from the Triangle and Down East combined to communicate for the MS-150. Bruce Arnold N8UTY from New Bern was this year's coordinator.

Photos by KN4AQ



Umstead State Park Becoming Radio Active!

Charles E. Scharlau, NZI—cscharlau@earthlink.net
World Championships in Bulgaria, September 2006.

Have you been waiting for the National Championships to come to Raleigh? Then your wait is almost over! Athletes from across the country will be converging on Raleigh's William B. Umstead State Park, April 8-9, 2006 for the Sixth USA ARDF Championships that will determine the National Champions of Radio Sport.

If the words "Radio Sport" conjure up images of ham operators drooping over their microphones after a weekend-long DX competition, then it's time you learned about the other radio sport: the athletic one! Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) involves using a map, compass, and radio receiver (with a directional antenna) to navigate from a starting point to several transmitters located in the woods, and then to the finish line. There can be as many as five transmitters located along a course that is four to six miles long! The courses usually include plenty of hills, thick vegetation, and choices to make between the shortest path, and the easiest path to navigate. The winner is the competitor who finds the most transmitters, with ties being settled by shortest time spent hunting. World-class competitors typically complete a challenging course in about one hour. Few Americans are at that level yet, but Team USA is improving every year. Many of those competing at the Championships in Raleigh will be vying for a position on the team that will be representing the USA at the 13th ARDF World Championships in Bulgaria in September 2006.

Previous USA Championships have been held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Southern California, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Pine Mountain, Georgia. This is the first time the Championships have come to North Carolina. So don't miss this rare opportunity to see the championships being held in our own backyard! In fact, you are welcome to compete in the games, and experience the sport truly first-hand. Or, come out and spend some time observing. Better yet, volunteer to help with the event: Course Monitors stationed near the transmitters will be able to observe the competitors from close range as they make their way through the course.

To find out more about this exciting sport, and the 2006 USA ARDF Championships, visit the event web site at: www.ardf.us. Or contact the event organizers at ardf@earthlink.net. You might also want to revisit your September 2005 issue of QST Magazine: it contains an article on how to build your own 80M ARDF receiver.

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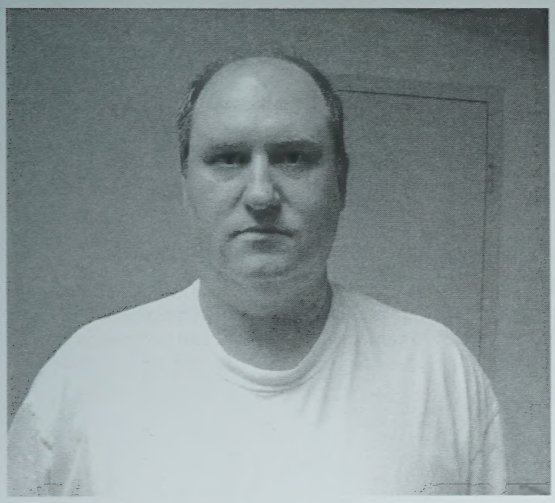


Name: Jon Kerfoot
Call: KG4ZVT
Residence: Raleigh, NC

When and Why I became a ham:

I went to work at an SCCA performance rally, at which ham radio was the communications backbone. I thought it would be a good skill to have, so I got my Technician license in April 2003.

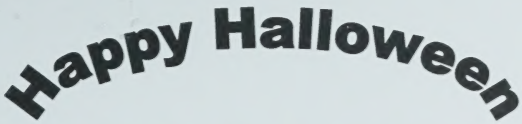
Other hobbies:

Reading science fiction and science fact, playing with my Miata, computers.

Other info:

I also am a member of the Sports Car Club of America, which sanctions amateur road races in the USA. For several years, I worked at SCCA races, flagging at corners or working in technical inspection.

RARS Club Webmaster www.rars.org



The RARS
Exciter November 2005
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
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RARS FOLKS at SHELBY HAMFEST

The left picture is in the "Open Air Building" a.k.a. "The Barn" where the Raleigh consortium of Littlewood, Montgomery, and Broughton peddled their wares. The other two pictures were taken at the SERA table where W4PVT, Mack Wood (KD4ACW, Cyndi's father) and KN4AQ, Gary, were working. Mac and Hank, K4HM, were discussing the upcoming 41st annual Telephone Pioneer QSO Party (CQ-TP is held on the first weekend of December each year).

Photos by Steve KJ4BX